

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 051948
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:TCARNEY/EA/TB:JJHELBLE:MGH
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
S/S-O - RPERITO

-----090159Z 079382 /62

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T STATE 051948

NODIS
-STADIS FOR THE AMB FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 3

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, US, VN, TH

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION'S POSSIBLE VISIT TO
BANGKOK

REF: BANGKOK 5023

1. I REGRET WE HAVE NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOU WITH
RESPECT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMIS-
SION TO VIETNAM STOPPING IN BANGKOK AFTER THE HANOI
VISIT. A BANGKOK STOP, WHICH WOULD BE FOR REST PUR-
POSES ONLY, IS DEPENDENT UPON LAO AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE
THE COMMISSION. WE DO NOT YET HAVE THAT AGREEMENT.

2. I FULLY UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELING THAT THE COMMISSION,
IF IT OVERNIGHTS IN BANGKOK, SHOULD MEET WITH THAI OFFI-
CIALS. HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION, WHICH IS BEING DESPATCHED
UNDER PRESIDENTIAL AUSPICES, HAS AN OBLIGATION TO BRIEF

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THE PRESIDENT FIRST, AND IT WOULD NOT THEREFORE BE AP-
PROPRIATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION TO MEET WITH OTHER
FOREIGN OFFICIALS PRIOR TO REPORTING TO THE PRESIDENT.

3. THE MISSION OF THE COMMISSION IS PRIMARILY TO RE-
CEIVE INFORMATION AND REMAINS OF MIA AND TO ACCEPT THE
VIEWS OF THE VIETNAMESE ON OTHER ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

THE COMMISSION WILL NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE ON U.S.-SRV BILATERAL ISSUES WHICH WOULD BE OF CONCERN AND INTEREST TO THAIS. NOR WILL IT BE CONVEYING ANY OFFICIAL VIEWS ON U.S. INTENTIONS IN SEASIA.

4. BANGKOK STOP AS ORIGINALLY ENVISIONED WAS STRICTLY FOR PURPOSES OF REST AND SECURE COMMUNICATION WITH WASHINGTON BEFORE VISITING VIENTIANE FOR MIA PURPOSES, ASSUMING THE LATTER AGREE TO VISIT.

5. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, DEPT SEES LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE VALUE IN MEETINGS BETWEEN SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS AND COMMISSION. IF IT WOULD MEET THAI CONCERNS, YOU COULD PROVIDE APPROPRIATE RTG SENIOR LEVELS A REPORT OF THE COMMISSION'S VISIT BASED UPON YOUR OWN MEETING WITH THE COMMISSION. JIM ROSENTHAL (STATE/EA) WHO WILL BE WITH COMMISSION ALL THE WAY COULD ACCOMPANY YOU.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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